



Water Quality Working Group

Date: 05/12/11

Start Time: 12:00 PM

End Time: 02:00 PM

Meeting Method: Conference Call w/ Go-To Meeting, In-person at Maui, Oahu

Attendance: Leader Take Tomson (Vice-Chair); Micki Ream, Chris Ostrander, Doug Cole, Marvin Heskett, Myron Honca, Richard Davidson, Sol Kahohalahala, Take Tomson Robin Newbold, Mary Jorgensen, Mike Moran, Maile Carpio, Wendy Wiltse, Jay Carpio, Larry Stevens, Scott Kefer, Carol Wicox, Robin Knox, Justin Viezbicke, Joe Paulin, Patty Miller

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Working Group Process and Draft Threats Matrix (emailed last week)

Public comments, among other input, was used to develop the left hand column of threats matrix. There are some things could be moved around, but will use this as a starting point for discussion.

To demonstrate how to read this document, Coastal Development was used as an example: What impact on *marine resources* will coastal development have? Are there *socioeconomic impacts*? *Public health* or *cultural concerns* associated with coastal development? What *existing authorities* that oversee Coastal Development, and what *level of implementation* are they operating with? What are the *existing actions*? Are there information gaps in our picture of Coastal Development relative to water quality? What is being done with *current sanctuary programs*? *Other sanctuaries*? The last column, *potential sanctuary actions*, is what this exercise is driving towards. Hopefully, we can build a matrix where the information collected gives a strong foundation for what the working group recommendations might be. Task of this meeting is to collect suggestions (ie add *source of information* column) for modifying this matrix.

Potential additional categories

Given the article that Robin sent out the other day on the poor condition of coastal sewer system potential of untreated sewage, perhaps adding *wastewater*, *pipes* columns? Corroded sewer pipes.

Fishing pressure is a potential biological threat to water quality given EPA's definition where water quality includes biological, chemical, physical aspects. Fishing is potential negative pressure, can effect biological integrity.

Stream diversion: freshwater not going into the ocean, effects biology and chemistry. Not clear why threat? Is it a cause? Is it the removal of fish nurseries, estuary? Impact on marine water in sanctuary because Hawaiian fishes that have lifecycle that includes both fresh/salt. Consequences may extend to marine fisheries. Low flow impact water quality not just biological conditions.



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Blocking of freshwater into marine sanctuary? Reduced flow of freshwater into ocean or diminishing of freshwater infusion into marine environment. Causes: blocking springs, stream diversion. Agreement on *Reduction of freshwater*

Overlapping categories: Where would game management fit? Its erosion directly related to land use as large population of ungulates overgrazing has contributed to sedimentation. Major issue for Lanai which is encompassed by sanctuary boundaries. Maui ranchland material makes it down to the ocean. True on Big Island and Molokai. Game management/ Upland habitat management/ Damage management column suggestions... consensus on *Feral and domestic ungulates/ ranchland* instead.

Next three runoff (*stormwater, urban, golf course*) Should there be a prioritization between the three? Runoff encompasses chemicals but also waste, marine debris, pathogens, etc. Suggestion for refining into three broad categories: *Oxygen demanding substances, Pathogens, Toxic*, etc. How much of these are threat to sanctuary? The Threats matrix will give us a process to vet these threats. Have column on how much information we have (gaps), no data on it doesn't mean it isn't a problem. Pharmaceuticals is an emerging issue.

Causes and threats confusion

Fecal material gets into stream, makes them a threat? Get more specific in threat... threat is nutrient loading be it from animal or point sources. Group agreement to add another column... *Causes*. For example *Sedimentation* is still the threat, but the causes are stream runoff, ungulates, etc. Impacts would be suffocation. With new categorization scheme, it might be possible to get the threat list down to four or five very specific items that would be easier to address.

Definition and Semantics

Including animals in water quality? More focus, the better. Micro or macro animals? Where you draw cutoff in biology greatly changes the picture. EPA no lines draw, include Human biology included. For purpose of working group, members are encouraged to consider threats to the sanctuary ecosystem as a whole, rather than just humpback whales.

Conducting business/ tasks between meetings:

A proposal was brought for a few members to continue the revisions (lead: Take Tomson with Robin Knox, Mary Jorgensen, Chris Ostrander, and Carol Wilcox). Will take ideas, put them together, and send it back out to the larger group.

Once the categories have been reviewed, who will go about fill out the cells? Joe will tackle *current sanctuary* and *other sanctuaries*. One or two people can be assigned to the each of the other categories based on experiences. For the Hawaiian Cultural concerns sanctuary staff can help to facilitate communications with the Native Hawaiian Working Group.

The group can utilize a definition of water quality used in the Clean Water Act. Address the missing pieces of what the physical and biological integrity of water means, with more description needed. DOH website, Chapter 11.54 Table, Classification of water, designate uses. State water quality



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standards, vetted by state and federal entities will be used as a starting point, but there is room for clarification on biology standards. [Robin Knox] Also, Florida Keys has a FAQ on water quality [Joe]

Action Items: Information Requests

1. Take Tomson, Robin Knox, Mary Jorgensen, Chris Ostrander, and Carol Wilcox will edit the Threats Matrix
2. State water quality standards
3. Sanctuary WQ FAQs - FKNMS

Heads Up: September 13-14, 2011 are the tentative the dates for the SAC meeting to present the working group recommendations to the entire council.

Water Quality Working Group Meeting Schedule:

06/02/11 at 01:00PM

06/30/11 at 12:00PM

07/21/11 at 12:00PM

08/18/11 at 12:00PM